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ARTICLES

Concerning matters Ecclesiastical

To be enquired of within the Diocese

of Hereford

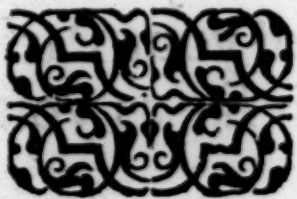
In the Primary Visitation

OF THE

Right Reverend Father in God

H U M P H R E Y,

Lord Bishop of that Diocese.



In the Year 1703

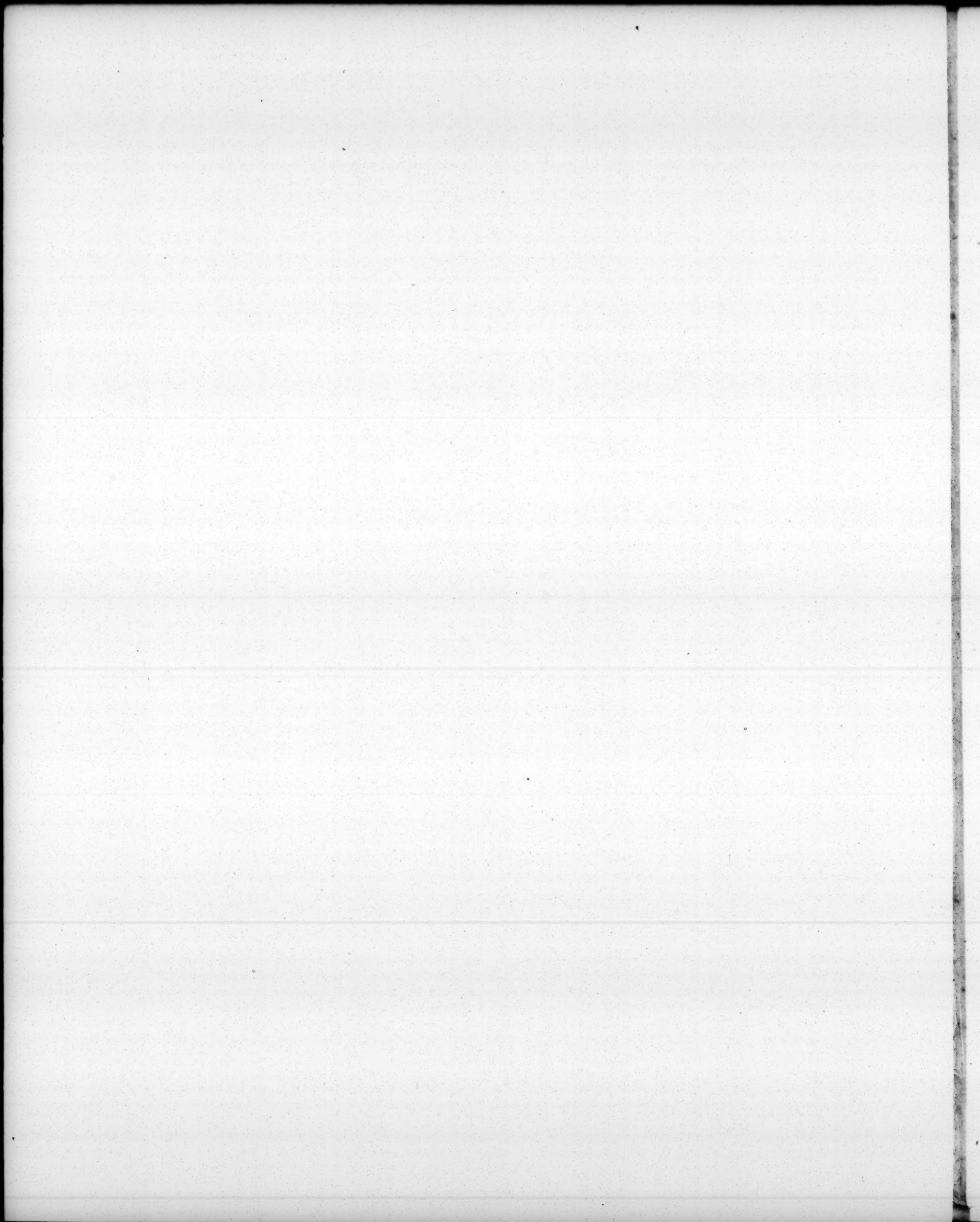
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Printed Anno Dom. MDCCIII.



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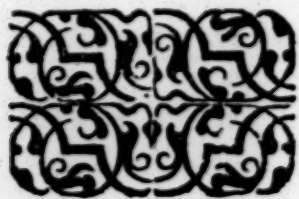
In the Primary Viſitation

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The Churchwardens Oath.

YOU shall swear truly and faithfully to execute the Office of a Churchwarden within your Parish, according to the best of your skill and knowledge : And also to present all such things and Persons, as to your knowledge are Presentable by the Laws Ecclesiastical of this Realm :

So help you God , &c.

The Sidemen's Oath.

YOU shall swear that you will be assistant to the Churchwardens of your Parish in the due Execution of their Office , so far as you are bound by Law.

ARTICLES

*Of Visitation and enquiry in the Diocese
of HEREFORD.*

Concerning Churches and Chappels &c.

Tit. I.

1 **I**S your Parish Church or Chappel kept in good and sufficient repair? and all things so decently ordered therein as becometh the House of God?

2. Is there in your Church a Font of Stone, with a good Cover in a convenient place, and is there in your Chancel a decent Communion Table with a futable Carpet and another covering of Linnen for the Administration of the Lord's Supper? And have you a fair Communion Cup or Chalice with a Cover of Silver, and one or more Flagons of Silver or Pewter thereunto belonging, together with one or more Patins or Plates for the bread, and are they used to any other Common use?

3. Have you in your said Church, or Chappel, a convenient reading Seat or Pew, a Pulpit with a comely cloth or Cushion and a decent Surplice, a Bible of the last Translation, and two Books of Common Prayer in the large Volume, and the Book of Homilies set forth by Authority, a Book of Canons and Constitutions Ecclesiastical, the 39 Articles and a Printed Table of the Degrees wherein Marriage is prohibited?

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4. Have

4. Have you a Register Book of Parchment, wherein to Register the Names and Surnames of all such persons as are married, Christened, or Buried, within your Parish, and is the Transcript thereof yearly brought into the Bishop's Registry? and also a Book to keep the Parish Accounts? and a perfect Inventory of all the Church Goods? And have you a Chest to keep the same?

5. What Legacies have been given to the use and benefit of your Church? How have they been bestowed and disposed of? Doth any detain or imbezle any Church Goods or any other Gifts given to Charitable uses? And have you an Account of all gifts and Legacies given to your Church or other Charitable uses, and a Table of the Names of such Charitable Persons as left or gave them hung up in your Church? And have you also either the Original or Authentique Copys of such Wills, Deeds or other Instruments which concern such pious or Charitable Gifts or bequests kept in your Church Chest?

6. Is your Church-yard decently kept and well fenced, and no Encroachment made thereon by building or otherwise?

7. Are the House and Outhouses of your Minister in good Repair? and have you a true and perfect Terrier of the Gleab Lands, parcells of Tythes and appurtenances? And have any of the antient Gleab or any parcel of Tythes belonging to your Parsonage or Vicarage been at any time alienated or exchanged?

Concerning Ministers.

Tit. II.

1. Hath your Parson, Vicar or Curate received Episcopal Ordination according to Law?

2. Is

2. Is he defamed or suspected to have obtained either his Benefice or Orders by any Simoniack Compact? And hath he been legally inducted into his Benefice.

3 Did he within two Months after his Induction, publickly in the Church, upon some Sunday or Holyday, in the time of Divine Service, read the 39 Articles of the Church of England Established by Authority, and there publickly declare his assent thereunto? Hath he within six Months after his Induction read the Common Prayer and declared his Assent and Consent to the use of every thing contained therein?

4. Hath he any other Ecclesiastical Benefice? Is he constantly resident upon his Benefice among you? Or what residence doth he make in your Parish?

5. Hath he a Curate to assist him? Who is that Curate? Is he conformable to the Laws and Orders of the Church of England? and doth he Serve in any other Church besides? and what yearly Stipend is allowed him?

6. Doth your Parson, Vicar or Curate, in reading the dayly Morning and Evening Service, Administration of the holy Sacraments, and other Offices of the Church, use the form of Words prescribed in the Book of Common Prayer without any addition, omission or alteration? And doth he use all such Rites and Ceremonies in all parts of Divine Service, as are appointed in the said Book, so far as you have observed?

7. Doth your Minister at the Reading or Celebrating the Divine Offices in your Church or Chappel, wear the Surplice and (if a Graduate) a Hood suitable to his Degree?

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8. Doth

8. Doth he observe the Holy days and Fasting-days, as also the Ember-Weeks, and the yearly Perambulation in Rogation week, as in the Common Prayer Book is appointed, giving notice to the Parishioners of every of the same in the Church in the time of Divine Service upon the Sunday next before?

9. Doth your Minister before Sermon use to pray for her present Majesty Queen Anne, and the Princeesse Sophia and the rest of the Royall Family?

10. Hath your Minister been licensed to preach by the Bishop? If so, doth he then constantly (unless in case of Sicknes, necessary absence, or other reasonable impediment) himself preach in your Church or Chappel one Sermon every Sunday? Or if he be not a Licensed Preacher, or being so Licensed be hindered by Sicknes or otherwise, doth he procure a Sermon to be so preached by some other Licensed Preacher?

11. Doth your Minister diligently instruct the Youth of your Parish in the Church Catechism, and expound the same to them, and doth he prepare and present them, being so instructed, to be confirmed by the Bishop?

12. Doth he endeavour to reclaim all Popish Recusants and other Sectaries (if any such be inhabiting within your Parish) to the true Religion professed and established in the Church of England?

13. Doth he refuse or neglect to visit the Sick, or delay the Baptism of any Infant that is in danger of Death? Is there any Child past Infancy, or other Person of more years, yet remaining unbaptized in your Parish? Doth your Minister use to Baptize
any

any without Godfathers and Godmothers: or admit either of the Parents to be Godfather or Godmother to their own Children?

14. Hath he at any time (as you know, or have heard) preached any False, Heretical, Seditious or Schismatical Doctrine?

15. Hath he presumed to marry any Persons in private Houses, or such as being under age, have not the Consent of their Parents, or without the Banns first published on three Sundays or Holidays in the Church; or at any other hours then between Eight and Twelve in the Morning, unless he had a License or Dispensation so to do?

16. Doth any Person preach in your Parish as a Lecturer? Hath he allowance from the Bishop for so doing? Doth he before his Lecture, read Divine Service according to the Book of Common Prayer, and is he in all respects conformable to the Laws and Orders of the Church of England?

17. Is your Parson, Vicar, Curate or Lecturer, a man of a sober, unblameable and exemplary Life? Is his Apparel grave and decent, as the Canons of the Church require, or is his Carriage and Conversation, in any kind whatsoever, disorderly or scandalous and unbeseeming a Minister of Jesus Christ?

18. Doth your Minister duly read in time of Divine Service, the late Act against Prophane Swearing and Cursing, on the four Lord's days appointed by the Act of Parliament? And hath he openly read the Queen's late Proclamation against Immorality and Profaneness?

19. Doth your Minister give due notice of the Celebration of the holy Communion on the Lord's day before, and read the Preparatory Exhortation in the Common Prayer for that purpose?

20. Do

20. Do those who are to Communicate send in their names to the Minister some day the Week before, as is required in the Rubrick, and doth your Minister instruct and prepare the people to come to that holy Sacrament, and repel open and notorious evil livers and such other persons, as by the 27th Canon ought not to be admitted to that Sacrament, certifying the Ordinary thereof within 14 days?

21. Doth your Minister Church any Woman, who has brought forth a Child notoriously known to be begotten in Adultery or Fornication without first acquainting the Ordinary?

Tit. III.

Concerning the Parishoners.

1. Are there any in your Parish that scoff at Religion? or that are guilty of Profaneness or Blasphemy against the Majesty of God: Or that derogate from the Authority or Sufficiency of the Holy Scriptures?

2. Are there any that by writing, speaking or otherwise acting have depraved, vilified or opposed the Doctrine or Discipline of the Church of England, or the Liturgy, Rites or Ceremonies by Law established?

3. Are there any that have interrupted or disturbed the Minister in Reading Divine Service or Administring the Holy Sacraments, or interrupted him in Preaching?

4. Are there any Persons living in your Parish, who under pretence of Liberty of Conscience, wholly neglect all Publick Worship of God?

5. Is

5. Is there in your Parish any Person a known or reputed Heretick or Schismatick, any Papiſt, or other Sectary, or any that makes profeſſion of any other Religion then what is Eſtabliſhed in the Church of England; and if there be any ſuch, what are their names?

6. Is there any Person in your Parish, that liveth under a common fame or vehement Suſpition of Adultery, Fornication or Inceſt? Are there any common Drunkards within your Parish or common Swearers, or any that are noted to be Railers, unclean or filthy talkers or Sowers of Sedition, faction and diſcord amongſt their Neighbours?

7. Do any of your Parish upon Sundays follow their bodily or ordinary Labour, or permit their Servants ſo to do? Are any Shops kept open, or any Wares ſold? Or any Vintners, Inn-keepers, or other Victuallers and Sellers of Beer or Ale, ſuffer any Person to tittle or game in their Houſes upon thoſe days? and eſpecially in the time of Divine Service.

8. Are there any in your Parish that reſuſe to ſend their Infant Children in due time to be Baptized publickly in the Church, unleſs in caſe of urgent danger?

9. Doth every Houſholder in your Parish cauſe their Children and Servants to come to Church to learn their Catechiſm, and to give an account thereof unto your Miniſter, as he ſhall require it of them openly in the Church upon Sundays and Holidays?

10. Is there any Person in your Parish, who being ſixteen Years of Age, doth not receive the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper, at leaſt three times in the Year, of which Eaſter is alwaies to be one?

11. Have you any among you that be denounced and declared Excommunicate? How long have they been ſo Excommunicated? And do
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any of your Parish keep society with them before they be reconciled to the Church and absolved?

12. Are there any Living in your Parish as Man and Wife, who are within the Degrees prohibited? Or any that being lawfully divorced have married again? Or any that being lawfully married, and not separated or divorced by course of Law, do not cohabit together?

13. Are there any belonging to your Parish who refuse to pay their annual Dues (commonly called Easter Duties or Offerings) to your Minister, or any that refuse to contribute and pay the Rate assessed upon them for the Repaire of your Church or Chappel, and for the providing of such Books, Furniture or Ornaments as be requisite for the performance of all Divine Offices?

14. Are there any Wills or Testaments of Persons deceased in your Parish that be yet unproved, or any Goods administred without a due Grant from the Ordinary?

15. Is there any contention among any of your Parish for their Pews or Seats in your Church, and hath there been any disturbance in your Church in the time of Service or Sermon on that account? Have any new Pews been erected in your Chancel, or in the body of your Church or Chappel without leave from the Ordinary?

Tit. IV.

Concerning Hospitals, Schools, School-Masters Physicians, Chirurgeons and Midwives.

1. Is there in your Parish, any Hospital, Alms-house or Free-School? Who was the Founder, or is now the Patron thereof? And what is the yearly revenue or Stipend belonging to the Governors or Masters of the same? Is the same ordered and governed in every respect as it ought to be? & the Revenues thereof rightly imployed,
according

according to the intention of the Founder, and of such Grants and Ordinances as have been made concerning the same?

2. Doth any man keep a publick or private School in your Parish, who is not allowed thereunto by the Bishop? Doth your School-Master teach his Scholars the Catechism of Religion set forth by Authority? Doth he cause them upon Sundays and Holydays orderly to repaire to your Church or Chappel, and see that they behave themselves there quietly and reverently during the time of Divine Service and Sermon?

3. Doth any man in your Parish practise Physick or Chirurgery, or any Woman take upon her to exercise the Office of Midwife without Approbation and License from the Ordinary?

Tit. V.

Concerning the Church-Wardens and Side-men, Parish-Clerks or Sextons.

1. Are the Church-Wardens of your Parish yearly and duly chosen by the joynt consent of the Ministers and Parishioners, or one of them by the Minister, and the other by the Parishioners, according to the usage of your Parish?

2. Have the former and last Church-Wardens given up their Accounts to the Parish and delivered up to the Succeeding Church-Wardens the monies remaining in their hands, together with all other things belonging to your Church or Chappel?

3. Do they suffer no misbehaviour or disorder to be done by Men, Women, Servants or Children in or about your Church or Chappel?

4. Do

4. Do they against every Communion appointed in your Church or Chappel, provide a sufficient quantity of fine white Bread and of good Wine, according to the number of Communicants?

5. Have you belonging to your Church or Chappelry a Parish Clerk or Sexton aged Twenty one and sufficiently qualified for his place, and doth he discharge his Duty as the Laws require? Is he chosen by your Minister? and is his Wages duly payd him?

Tit. VI.

Enquiries concerning Church - Officers.

1. Are there any Ecclesiastical Officers, as Registers, Proctor, Apparitor, or other Minister of the Ecclesiastical Court, that take or exact Gratuities or unaccustomed Fees for expedition or any other way abuse their place, or aggrieve her Majesties Subjects or extort any greater Fees than such as are allowed by the Table of Fees? Is that Table set up in the Consistory Court and Register's Office, and made publick to the view and perusal of all that desire it?

2. Hath the Register, Apparitor or any other Ministerial Officer for any Reward or Fee excused any from appearance before the Ecclesiastical Court, or dismiss any person detected or accused without the knowledge and consent of the Judge, or otherwise neglected or abused his Office?

3. Hath any Person paid any money for Commutation of Penance for any crime of Ecclesiastical Cognizance, and if so, how hath it been disposed of?

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